# Pratt County HHW Case Study

#### Pratt County Info

Population of 10,000 plus

Located 50 Miles South of Great Bend

Small Arid Landfill

HHW hub for 6 counties



The only city in Kansas with Hot and Cold water towers

#### The Incident

Improper disposal of HHW into the County Landfill

#### Date of the Incident

Around the 1st of November 2004

#### Where Did It Come From?

Pratt County HHW Facility



Inside the HHW facility







### What Happened?

Employees from the HHW facility transported approximately 10 drums of HHW to the landfill site.

- The materials were neither weighed nor screened at the landfill.
- The drums were spread over an area, crushed and covered.

## What Was Disposed Of?

Pesticides and Herbicides

Volatile Organic Compounds

Acids, Bases, and Neutrals

Surfactants

Metals

#### How was the incident discovered?

 An employee of the HHW facility sent an e-mail to KDHE informing them of the disposal.

### The Investigation

KDHE personnel arrived in Pratt to interview the people involved.

- KDHE concluded that there was in fact an improper disposal.
- KDHE informed the County Commissioners of the incident.

### Pratt County's Response

- Acquired the services of an environmental consulting firm.
- Ceased using the area surrounding the disposal area in question.
- Temporarily closed the HHW facility.
- Made Personnel and Management Changes

#### Reasons for the Incident

- Lack of proper training
- Personnel problems
- Lack of communications
- Possible sabotage
- Unknown

### The Operations Plan

- Isolate and restrict the suspect disposal area.
- Confirm the drum locations by excavation.
- Determine if soil contamination has occurred.
- Remove HHW that could threaten groundwater into lined roll offs.
- Lab test wastes for contamination.
- Off site disposal of contaminated wastes.

#### The Excavation



The first scoop





The Second Day



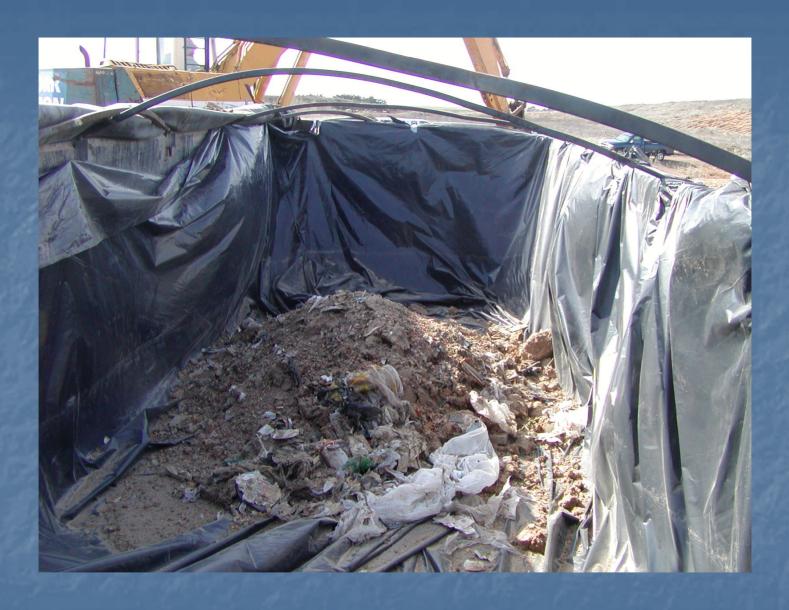
**Treated Grain** 



Suspect HHW Material







Placing contaminated waste into roll off



De-contamination area



The testing crew



Covering and re-compacting

#### The Testing

- Samples were taken from the excavation.
- Preliminary testing was done on site.
- Samples were logged and packed.
- Samples were sent to a lab in Florida.
- Waited for the results...

### The Disposal

Three roll offs were taken to Barton Co. Landfill

Two roll offs were taken to the incinerator at Kimball Nebraska.

#### The Financial Burden

- Allegations Evaluation
- Operations Plan Addendum
- HHW Inventory
- L.F. Staff Training
- Work Plan Preparation
- Respond to Comments
- HHW Operation Support
- Training of HHW Staff
- Excavation and Disposal
- Legal and Miscellaneous

\$ 7,004.20

\$ 750.00

\$ 3,218.08

\$ 1,018.10

\$ 2,500.00

\$ 762.00

\$ 2,900.07

\$ 255.00

\$67,271.52

\$15,000.00

**TOTALS:** 

<u>\$100,687.97</u>

### The Consequences

Possible closure of the landfill

Expanded water testing parameters

Financially devastating to the county